

REMARKS

The claims have been amended in a manner to recite preferred embodiments of the invention and to better distinguish the present invention over the art of record.

Early examination and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SUBMITTED HEREWITH

There is also being submitted herewith a Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement which lists certain patent publications which turned up in a Supplementary European Search Report mailed September 9, 2008 by the European Patent Office in applicant's corresponding European application no. EP 03 72 3709. The following patent publications have been cited in the search report and are not presently of record in the present application:

1. U.S. Patent No. 5,555,960;
2. German Patent Publication No. DE 40 03 561 C1; and
3. French Patent Publication No. 1, 038, 376 A.

A copy of the Supplementary European Search report completed September 1, 2008 is submitted herewith, along with Form-PTO 1449 and a Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement. Two of the patent publications which turned up in the European Supplementary Search Report, namely U.S. Patent No. 5, 897,039 to Swenke and U.S. Patent No. 3,198,300 to Tuttle are presently of record in the present application. Accordingly they are not listed on Form PTO-1449 submitted herewith.

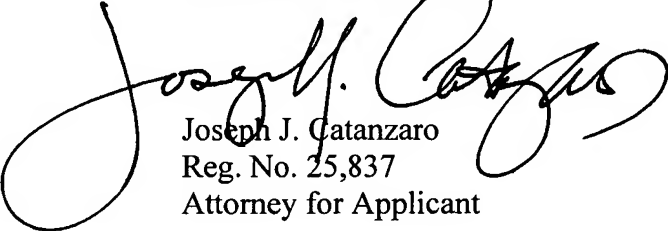
The European Supplementary Search Report indicates the degree of relevance found by the European Patent Office of each of the five patent publications with respect to the claims then of record in the European application.

The claims submitted herewith are believed to be allowable over all of the art of record herein, considered individually or in combination, in whole or in part,

Please charge the extra claim fee estimated to be \$208, to Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Please charge any additional fees which may become due, which have not been submitted herewith to our Deposit Account No. 01-0035.

Respectfully submitted,



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